

## ***Ginalloa siamica* var. *scortechinii* is a species of *Viscum* (Viscaceae)**

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**ABSTRACT.** *Ginalloa* Korth. is not represented in Peninsular Malaysia. *Ginalloa siamica* Craib var. *scortechinii* Gamble, known only from the type specimen, is conspecific with *Viscum ovalifolium* Wall. ex DC.

**Keywords.** *Ginalloa*, Peninsular Malaysia, Viscaceae, *Viscum*

### **Introduction**

In Peninsular Malaysia, *Ginalloa* Korth. is recorded only through *Ginalloa siamica* Craib var. *scortechinii* Gamble (Gamble 1914) described from a single specimen, *Scortechini* s.n., Perak (CAL, accession number 396346). According to Barlow (1997), *Ginalloa siamica* occurs in Thailand, Cambodia, Peninsular Malaysia and the Philippines. Variety *scortechinii* is distinguished by its 3-veined leaves compared to the 5-veined ones in the typical variety.

### **Notes on *Ginalloa siamica* var. *scortechinii***

The *Scortechini* type specimen is undated and the exact locality not specified. According to Gamble (1914), *Ginalloa* is characterised by flowers in triads on terminal and/or axillary spikes and female flowers with 3 minute perianth lobes, contrasting with *Viscum* L. that has flowers which are usually in triads or sometimes solitary, in the axils of leaves or at leafless nodes on branches, and female flowers usually with 4 perianth lobes. As the specimen Gamble described has a spike-like inflorescence bearing only female flowers with 3-lobed perianths, he described it as *Ginalloa*.

However, Gamble's note (19 Nov 1912) on the specimen reads: "This is the only sheet available. I found it among the sheets of *Viscum orientale*. Other sheets should be searched for and some sent to the Kew Herbarium."

I searched the Peninsular Malaysian *Viscum* collection in the Kew Herbarium and among specimens of *Viscum ovalifolium* Wall. ex DC. (formerly *Viscum orientale* auct. non Willd.) that have 3-veined leaves, I found a collection (*Scortechini* 732) identical to the type of *Ginalloa siamica* var. *scortechinii*. Detailed examination showed that the shoot branching, leaf size, shape and venation, and fruits in leaf axils and at leafless nodes were the same. I therefore conclude that *Ginalloa siamica* var. *scortechinii* is synonymous with *Viscum ovalifolium* and *Ginalloa* does not occur in Peninsular Malaysia.

Barlow (1997) noted that *Viscum ovalifolium* is polymorphic, and that while its flowers are usually arranged in triads or sometimes solitary, they are less usually found along leafless shoots that superficially resemble the spicate inflorescences of *Ginalloa*. This is well illustrated by the collection Chew *et al.* FRI 53735 (KEP). Also, it is not uncommon for female flowers to have a perianth lobe missing, i.e. with only three lobes present. Danser (1931) had maintained *Ginalloa siamica* var. *scortechinii* but Barlow (1997) did not recognise the variety, although the latter still regarded *Ginalloa siamica* as having a distribution that extended into Peninsular Malaysia. Neither had seen the type (Barlow, *pers. com.*).

*Viscum ovalifolium* Wall. ex DC., Prodr. (DC.) 4: 278 (1830). TYPE: Wallich 489, Penang (holotype K-W).

*Ginalloa siamica* Craib var. *scortechinii* Gamble, J. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 75: 383 (1914). **syn. nov.**

. TYPE: *Scortechinii s.n.*, Perak, Peninsular Malaysia (holotype CAL, accession number 396346).

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